

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 2 and adds new claims 6-8. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

A. Interview

Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesy of the Examiner during the telephone interview of December 3 with the undersigned and a representative of the assignee, Mr. Nobuyuki Takahashi of Yamaha.

B. Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to better claim the invention. For example, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite “a first oscillator device” and “a second oscillator device” as opposed to “a first checking signal device” and “a second checking signal device.” Furthermore, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that the second oscillator device generates checking signals to only a group of the plurality of the buses. Claim 2 has also been amended into independent form.

C. Claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Heyl.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 2 as amended are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Heyl for at least two reasons.

First, Heyl fails to disclose or suggest “a first oscillator device” and “a second oscillator device.” During the interview, the Examiner agreed that Heyl fails to disclose the recited oscillator devices.

Second, as discussed during the interview, the Examiner considers the level adjustment circuits 110, 112, 114 and 116 as generating checking signals. Heyl makes clear that each of these circuits can output to all of the four output lines shown in Fig. 3. (Col. 4, lines 19-64.) There is no disclosure or suggestion that any of these circuits are limited to outputting to only a subset of the four output lines.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Heyl.

D. Claim 2 is not vague and ambiguous.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 2 under § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the last recitation of claim 2 to be directed to a “checking signal input device.” The checking signal input device operates in conjunction with a selecting device that selects either the first and second checking signals or just the first checking signals.

If the first and second checking signals are selected, the checking signal input device “causes the second checking signals to be input to the group of buses and the first checking signals to be input to the other buses of the plurality of buses” The “other buses” refers to the buses other than “the group of buses” in which the second checking signals are input.

If just the first checking signals are selected, the checking signal input device causes “the first checking signals to be input to all of said plurality of buses.”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under § 112.

E. New claims

Applicant has added new claims 6-8, which depend from claim 1 or 2.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 393032041600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Mehran Arjomand

Registration No.: 48,231

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

555 West Fifth Street

Los Angeles, California 90013-1024

(213) 892-5200